

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, EEC

SUBJECT: EC-9 INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS

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REF: A. STATE 191876; B. PARIS 20958 (NOTAL)

1. STATE REFTEL PROVIDES SOME BACKGROUND AND PARTIALLY ANSWERS QUESTION RAISED PARA 3 PARIS REFTEL. THE US CONTINUES TO WELCOME THE EC-9 DECISION TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO THE PARTIES IN ACHIEVING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. EC-9 INITIATIVE WAS FIRST SUGGESTED IN HELSINKI WHEN IT APPEARED INTERCOMMUNAL CYPRUS TALKS IN VIENNA MIGHT REACH AN IMPASSE. FURTHERMORE, US INFLUENCE WAS LIMITED BY FAILURE TO LIFT THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO, AND WE BELIEVED NINE COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN KEEPING UP PRESSURE FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

2. SINCE AUGUST 1, HOWEVER, SITUATION HAS BEEN ALTERED BY RELATIVE SUCCESS OF VIENNA III, INCLUDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN DENKTASH AND CLERIDES THAT THEY WILL DISCUSS BASIC ISSUES OF A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 8-9 UNDER WALDHEIM'S AUSPICES. GREEK GOVERNMENT IS STILL ASKING THAT NINE GO FORWARD WITH THEIR INITIATIVE, AND CYPRUS GOVERNMENT ALSO SUPPORTS IT, BUT ACCORDING TO BRITISH IS NO LONGER PRESSING TO HAVE AN EC-9 VISIT BEFORE THE NEW YORK TALKS. HOWEVER, ALL EC-9 REPRESENTATIVES IN ANKARA AGREE THAT

TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS VERY COOL, AND ARE THEREFORE REPORTEDLY ADVISING AGAINST AN INITIATIVE NOW. IN NICOSIA DENKTASH HAS OPENLY OPPOSED INTERVENTION BY THE NINE AT THIS TIME. IT IS NOT SURPRISING, THEREFORE, THAT SEVERAL OF NINE HAVE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF AN INITIATIVE NOW.

3. THE NINE SEEM THUS CAUGHT IN DILEMMA OF HAVING STIMULATED GREEK EXPECTATIONS THAT THEY WOULD PUT IMMEDIATE PRESSURE ON TURKS, WHILE CONSENSUS IS FORMING AMONG THEM THAT AN INITIATIVE IS NOT DESIRABLE UNTIL AFTER CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 8-9. WE ASSUME THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE INTERIM HOLDING ACTION, SUCH AS A COMMUNICATION TO THE PARTIES SUPPORTING THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND URGING CONTINUED MOMENTUM TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 8-9 TALKS THEY WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF ANY FURTHER ACTION THEY MIGHT WISH TO TAKE.

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4. USG WILL CONTINUE AS APPROPRIATE TO EXPRESS ITS SUPPORT FOR THE DENKTASH-CLERIDES TALKS, AND WE ASSUME THE NINE WILL BE DOING THE SAME. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, FOR THE PRESENT WISH TO ADVISE THEM EITHER TO TAKE, OR NOT TO TAKE, ANY SPECIFIC INITIATIVE WITH REGARD TO THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME - PENDING THEIR OWN FURTHER ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE THEY MIGHT PLAY.

5. THE QUESTION OF AN EC-9 INITIATIVE WILL BE DISCUSSED
ALONG THE ABOVE LINES WITH DIRGEN POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF
THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, EUGENIO PLAJA, WHEN HE
CALLS ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE AUGUST 21. SISCO

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